

It all adds up to cleaner air

FACT SHEET

Car Maintenance

Spring cleaning applies to more than just your house—spring is the time to make sure your car is tuned up and in working order. Regular car maintenance saves you time and money, while also helping clean the air.

Just think...a little car maintenance now can prevent a lot of problems down the road. April, National Car Care Month, is a good time to start a year-round commitment to proper vehicle maintenance. Taking the time for a spring tune-up can extend the life of your car, reduce your chance of having a breakdown, consume less gasoline, and save money.

Here are some important car maintenance facts to consider this spring:

- Regular car maintenance, such as tune-ups, oil changes, air filter maintenance, and proper tire inflation, can save 23 gallons of gasoline per year on average.¹
- Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10%—saving up to 55 gallons of gasoline, or about three trips to the gas station, each year.²
- Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure can improve your gas mileage by around 3%—saving up to 18 gallons of gasoline per year.³
- A well-maintained vehicle produces up to 20% less volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 10% less nitrogen oxides (NO_x)—the precursors of ground-level ozone—than a poorly maintained vehicle.⁴

¹ Federal Highway Administration. Highway Statistics 2001. Calculations from Table VM-1.
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/hs01/vm1.htm>

² Department of Energy/U.S. EPA, <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>

³ Department of Energy/U.S. EPA, <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>

⁴ Based on calculations performed in August 2003 for the Federal Highway Administration using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MOBILE6.2 emissions model.